The Highlander

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INSIDE: SCHMALE REACTS TO TARIFFS PAGE 10 **FREE**

J.T. Lowes, owner of All-Season Cottage Rentals, is concerned about the impact of short-term rental bylaws. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

STR roll-out not without issues

By Lisa Gervais

Robert Pittet says he will no longer rent out his cottage following passage of short-term rental bylaws in Haliburton County.

Pittet thinks the new rules and regulations are "an unacceptable attack on property rights.

"The primary objective of the municipality (in his case Dysart et al) is to generate income, particularly with respect to the very costly requirements to purchase or pay licence of occupation fees for shore road allowances," he said.

Dysart et al is requiring short-term rental owners to purchase their shore road allowances; but in the interim, charging for licences of occupation.

Pittet added, "I also strongly object to the STR bylaw targeting family-owned cottages being rented via licenced agencies that already follow responsible rental practices, and being treated the same way as 'hotel' cottages that are

Continued **'Bylaw'** on page 7

Mammography unit lands in the Highlands

By Mike Baker

Retired Toronto firefighter Steve Yurkiw said nothing was going to stop him visiting the Haliburton hospital Feb. 3 for the delivery of the community's new $800,000 CT mammography unit.

After relocating to his Redstone River property in 2020, Yurkiw said he's experienced first-hand the benefits of Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) expanding its diagnostic imaging over the past year.

The hospital has invested more than $6 million on a new CT scanner, mammography unit, and x-ray machine. The CT was delivered last summer, providing a local option for County residents in need of testing to diagnose life-threatening conditions such as stroke, internal trauma, and blood clots. Previously, patients were transferred to hospitals in Lindsay, Bracebridge, or Peterborough – taking ambulances and medics away from the community for hours at a time.

"The addition of CT last year probably saved my life," Yurkiw told *The Highlander*.

Waking up one day feeling unwell, Yurkiw drove himself to the Haliburton hospital. He was having trouble breathing and, upon arrival, was rushed through emergency. Doctors quickly decided he needed specialist care at a larger facility – an air ambulance was called to transport him to the city, but there wasn't one available. Instead, Haliburton EMS carried out the transfer on the road.

"It was only here and available because of the hard work these people did raising money for CT. The staff were only able to transfer me because they weren't transferring someone else," Yurkiw noted.

He had another flare up later that summer. After calling 911, an ambulance crew was at his front door within 30 minutes. He was diagnosed with a blood clot, receiving a CT in Haliburton. On his drive home, he tuned into MooseFM where he learned

Continued **'Service'** on page 2

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Volunteer Steve Yurkiw and HHHS president and CEO Veronica Nelson wearing custom pink firefighter gear donated by Starfield. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

Service coming this month

Continued from page 1

about the station's annual radiothon supporting HHHS.

"It was almost like an epiphany, I knew right away that I wanted to help," Yurkiw said.

A full-time Toronto firefighter for 36 years, he had connections with Starfield, which makes fire bunker gear. He wanted custom pink equipment that he could wear while fundraising for the mammography unit. Yurkiw spent a day downtown last August, on the final day of the Radiothon, encouraging people to donate.

He managed to fill a boot with cash and coins in a few short hours, raising $3,000 of the radiothon's record $537,000 rake-in.

"There was a young lad from the high school who had this ashtray full of coins that he said he'd been wanting to give to a good cause," Yurkiw said. "One man threw $20 into the boot but after asking what it was going towards, took the $20 out and replaced it with a $100 bill."

After having three friends diagnosed with breast cancer in recent years, Yurkiw thinks it's great that County residents will have better access to screening in their home community.

Building momentum

HHHS president and CEO, Veronica Nelson, said the addition of mammography services in Haliburton has been a long time coming.

"It's going to impact so many women. Just the fact they won't have to travel anymore for a full clinical diagnosis… after the addition of CT last year, this just adds to the momentum of improving services in the County," Nelson said.

The new Siemens Mammomat B.brilliant system will be operational later this month. Nelson said Haliburton will be "one of only two or three" hospitals in Ontario with this level of machine. She hopes it will help with physician recruitment and retention.

Three new staff have been hired to process and complete tests for both CT and mammography. Nelson said breast screening patients can be in and out within 20 minutes. Some bookings have already been made for later this month.

Nelson said she hopes to receive Canadian Association of Radiologists Mammography (CAR) accreditation in early spring, which will enable the hospital to process referrals through the Ontario Breast Screening Program.

A grand opening for the unit will be held in March.

"I said last year that CT was the most significant addition this hospital had seen in its 23-year history, and bringing mammography online just adds to that," Nelson said. "This machine is comfortable, the compression release is much quicker. It also acts as a CT, so takes a bunch of images and puts them together into a data set that a radiologist can scroll through to better identify potential issues. We're very excited that we're able to bring this technology here."

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Arising Collective associate Andy Mitchell chaired a town hall meeting in Minden Jan. 29. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Consultants taking the pulse of Minden Hills

By Lisa Gervais

The public spit-balled what Minden Hills could look like in five years on Jan. 29 – as consultant Arising Collective provided a forum as part of the township's strategic planning process.

Facilitator, Andy Mitchell, asked participants at the Minden Community Centre to not self-censor but "describe what you would like to see done in Minden over the next five years."

Gull Lake resident, Jim Ecclestone, who purchased the Rockcliffe in the downtown, said, "first thing, tear down the Beaver Theatre. The town should take over ownership of that… it's a real eyesore and I think it's extremely important."

Andy Campbell chimed in, "do something with the (old) fire hall. It's been abandoned for a long time. There are a lot of ideas out there. Just get on with it."

Fay Martin added she'd like something done with the whole area between the river and the township parking lot. "Something gorgeous that celebrates the river."

Another person suggested extending the Riverwalk, all the way to Rotary Park.

Lynda Litwin spoke of a need to break down silos, from township staff, to councillors, to volunteers. "There is very little crossover in my perception," she said. Litwin added staff and some councillors do not even attend community events.

Another audience member said a seniors living residence providing different levels of medical support is needed in Minden. "There's so many seniors who move out of Minden because they need some kind of care," he commented. The man added if they were to stay, their children and grandchildren would visit the town.

Sally Moore, a Rotarian who owns and operates Sunny Rock Bed and Breakfast, commented on the lack of a tourist information centre in Minden, noting there is just a small table in the County of Haliburton building that no one knows is there. She would like a tourism information sign, at least. She also commented on the lack of reliable broadband and cell service in some areas. She noted a positive has been the community becoming more accepting in equity and inclusion.

Martin said she would also like a more robust economic development focus, "that isn't entirely on bringing people from away, but also on developing 'good, year-round, well-paying jobs'."

'The dirty cousin to Haliburton'

People entering the community centre at the beginning of the evening were asked to write one word they associate with Minden on Post-its. Words such as "community, friendly, support each other, and community assets." were placed on the wall.

Other talking points included: the impact of the loss of the Minden emergency room; the need for a swimming pool and/or splashpad, or other things to attract young families; a lack of public transportation and housing; the importance of service clubs and volunteerism; a perception staff is not responsive enough; and the need to bring back Music on the Gull to the downtown.

Business owner Shawn Smandych said Minden has never really had an identity, but an untrue perception it is "the dirty cousin to Haliburton." He said Minden is the gateway to the Highlands, with four major highways coming into the township. He said they also need to celebrate the fact they have the Minden Whitewater Preserve, Minden Pride, an OJHL hockey team, and the new S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre. "They're all positives but we never use positive language." He said there is also a lack of township support which he feels is impacting businesses.

As part of its work, Arising Collective has done interviews, held roundtable discussions, talked to councillors and staff, and did a second, virtual, town hall Jan. 30. They also put out a survey that had attracted more than 400 respondents as of last week. They will compile their results in a future report to council on a five-year strategic plan.

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Highlands East begins budget talks

By Lisa Gervais

Highlands East taxpayers got a glimpse into their township's 2025 budget Jan. 28 when CAO and treasurer, Brittany McCaw, along with senior staff, provided department overviews and draft capital forecasts.

McCaw said the net capital budget for 2025 - if approved by council - would be $2,272,508, up from $2,132,159 in 2024. That's a $140,349 increase - equating to a six per cent jump. The draft operation budget has yet to be presented to council; and nothing has been finalized.

The treasurer noted that last's year increase was 10 per cent over 2023. She said the money would be raised via municipal revenue, provincial and federal grants, and reserves.

"We've carefully prioritized our projects to ensure we maximize the impact of every dollar spent," McCaw told council last week.

She added, "the capital budget deliberation is a crucial and exciting opportunity to discuss our direction for the upcoming year. "

She noted the talks are a strong component of the township's corporate strategic plan and asset management plan, "to ensure the sustainable growth and development of our community.

"As we navigate through the challenges and opportunities ahead, it's imperative that we invest wisely in our infrastructure, public services and community projects."

The CAO said it's about balancing and enhancing the quality of life for residents, while also maintaining fiscal responsibility.

She said there was money for infrastructure improvements, to maintain and upgrade roads, bridges, and water and wastewater systems, all to support a growing population and ensure safety and well-being.

There is also money for community centres, steps towards a new municipal office, and for parks and cemeteries.

McCaw said there are also funds "earmarked for green initiatives, enhancements to waste management systems, and purchasing energy efficient vehicles."

Another focus is economic development, with spending to support local businesses and the municipality's attractions.

Substantial money is also being recommended for "innovative" technology to improve the township's efficiency. An example is automated facility rental applications.

Deputy mayor Cec Ryall said he was, "very impressed we're moving much deeper into the 21st Century than we have in the past."

Some of the bigger-ticket items include a municipal office design and engineering contract and survey costs ($85,000).

There's vehicle asks, such as a new SUV for the building department, and a new truck for bylaw. The fire department is also looking to buy two new vehicles.

McCaw said they are only purchasing one new vehicle for the fire chief. His current vehicle will be going into service as a rescue vehicle. The money allocated in the budget is to make the necessary changes to the pick-up truck to make it a rescue vehicle. The department is also seeking $121,500 for three jaws of life and more than $200,000 in fire hall upgrades.

Coun. Cam McKenzie asked that with a fire master plan still in the works, if there was thought to holding off on upgrading stations. Fire chief Chris Baughman said most have been delayed at least two years or more, but once the plan comes to council, he would be seeking direction from them.

Parks, recreation and facilities is looking for $229,707 to complete Herlihey Park. There is also talk of replacing the Zamboni at the arena and a new columbarium for Gooderham Cemetery.

Ryall said with the township doing a trails strategy, he'd like more money allocated. McCaw said once staff receive the final trails strategy report, they will discuss it with council and strike a plan going forward. In the interim, she said they could put more money in the operating budget for trails.

The roads department wants a new vehicle, two plow trucks, and an excavator. McCaw said the excavator was purchased at the end of 2024, and the money is to transfer back to the reserve for the purchase.

The focus this year is on the McColls bridge replacement, Dewey Street, Glamour Lake Road and Hadlington Road, with money set aside for future works on South Wilberforce Road and Lewis Road. The department is looking at a net capital of $1.2 million, which is a $70,249 increase over 2024.

Highlands East CAO Brittany McCaw delivered the capital budget. *File*.

The waste department is looking at safety railings for the Glamorgan transfer station, generators to power attendant buildings at Mumford and Bicroft, and money for future tree removal at Eel's Lake.

Environment, water and wastewater is seeking $185,000.

The first draft of the operating budget is Feb. 18 with the township hoping to finalize its overall 2025 budget in March.

Doyle to stand for NDP for second time in HKLB

After being nominated to represent the NDPs in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock (HKLB) this past weekend, Barbara Doyle says the upcoming provincial election is a pivotal moment for the riding.

Joining incumbent Laurie Scott, Green Party candidate Tom Regina, and independent Gene Balfour as official candidates for the Feb. 27 vote, Doyle said she's advocating for more investment in health care, addressing youth food insecurity by introducing school breakfast and lunch programs, making post-secondary education more affordable, and encouraging more businesses to set up shop in the area.

She believes the election should be about local issues, rather than the U.S. and president Donald Trump. Doyle is also calling on voters to avoid what she calls generational voting.

"Vote for change because you and your family deserve a good life. I want the things you want, and I will fight for you," she said.

Doyle added NDP leader Marit Stiles would come up with a plan to reopen the Minden ER if elected.

Zachary Tisdale told *The Highlander* he plans to register as the Libertarian candidate. He wants government reform to reduce spending and taxation.

"A vote for the Libertarian Party sends the message that people are fed up with our established parties who all have the same agenda of more spending and bigger government," he said.

As of press time there is no official Liberal candidate in HKLB. *(Mike Baker).*

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- February 13 – Regular Council Meeting
- February 27 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:
• Part-Time Waste Facilities Operator • Seasonal Waste Disposal Site Attendants • Part-Time Waste Disposal Site Attendants • Summer Students • Temporary Community Services Operator

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply.

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in areas that interferes with snow removal will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

The safest place is well behind the plow. Wait for plows to pull over before passing. Don't accelerate too quickly - the road ahead is unplowed and could be slick or snowy. Avoid parking in the street. Plows can't clear roads that are blocked by parked cars.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Always use extra caution when venturing on the lakes - if you don't need to go onto the ice, don't!

TOWNSHIP SEEKING MEMBERS FOR THE PROPERTY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Township of Minden Hills is currently seeking resident members to serve on the Property Standards Committee for the 2024-2026 term. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by submitting a copy of their resume and cover letter to admin@mindenhills.ca by February 21, 2025. For more information regarding the Property Standards Committee visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

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HCFA: progress on large animal vet

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County Farmers' Association (HCFA) president Minna Schleifenbaum said the organization is hoping to make some headway on a permanent solution to the region's large animal veterinary woes this year.

Farmers, homesteaders and hobbyists have been without a local option for emergency care for their livestock and other animals since March 2022.

Despite the Ontario government announcing a $900,000 three-year investment in 2023 to support vets looking to set up shop in underserviced areas – with MPP Laurie Scott confirming at the time that Haliburton County would be on the approved list – no new permanent practices have been established.

Schleifenbaum, who was confirmed as HCFA president for a third year at a Jan. 16 AGM held at Castle Antiques in Haliburton, said most County residents with large animals have had to find their own solutions in recent years.

She said a vet based in Fraserville, near Peterborough, works with many local horse owners, while a vet from Lindsay assists with other animals. While both have limited availability to visit in-person, they usually make themselves available after hours for video conferencing.

"We would love to see a full-time large animal vet here. We are optimistic that we're making progress… we're working with different levels of government to further incentivize vets to move to rural communities," Schleifenbaum said. "We've sat down a good few times in 2024 to look at the next steps. We've made some interesting connections.

"It's not going to be a tomorrow thing, but we are hopeful we will finally get to the bottom of this and have a new vet come to our County," she added.

Schleifenbaum said there were instances last year where HCFA members contributed to an emergency first aid kit think tank, pooling knowledge from different areas to help diagnose and treat problems a vet can't get to.

"We've been able to get a good few animals to pull through in pretty bad situations," she said.

While working on a full-time solution, the HCFA president said volunteers are also trying to bring a mobile vet service to the County. "There's lots of ideas being ping-ponged back and forth," Schleifenbaum said.

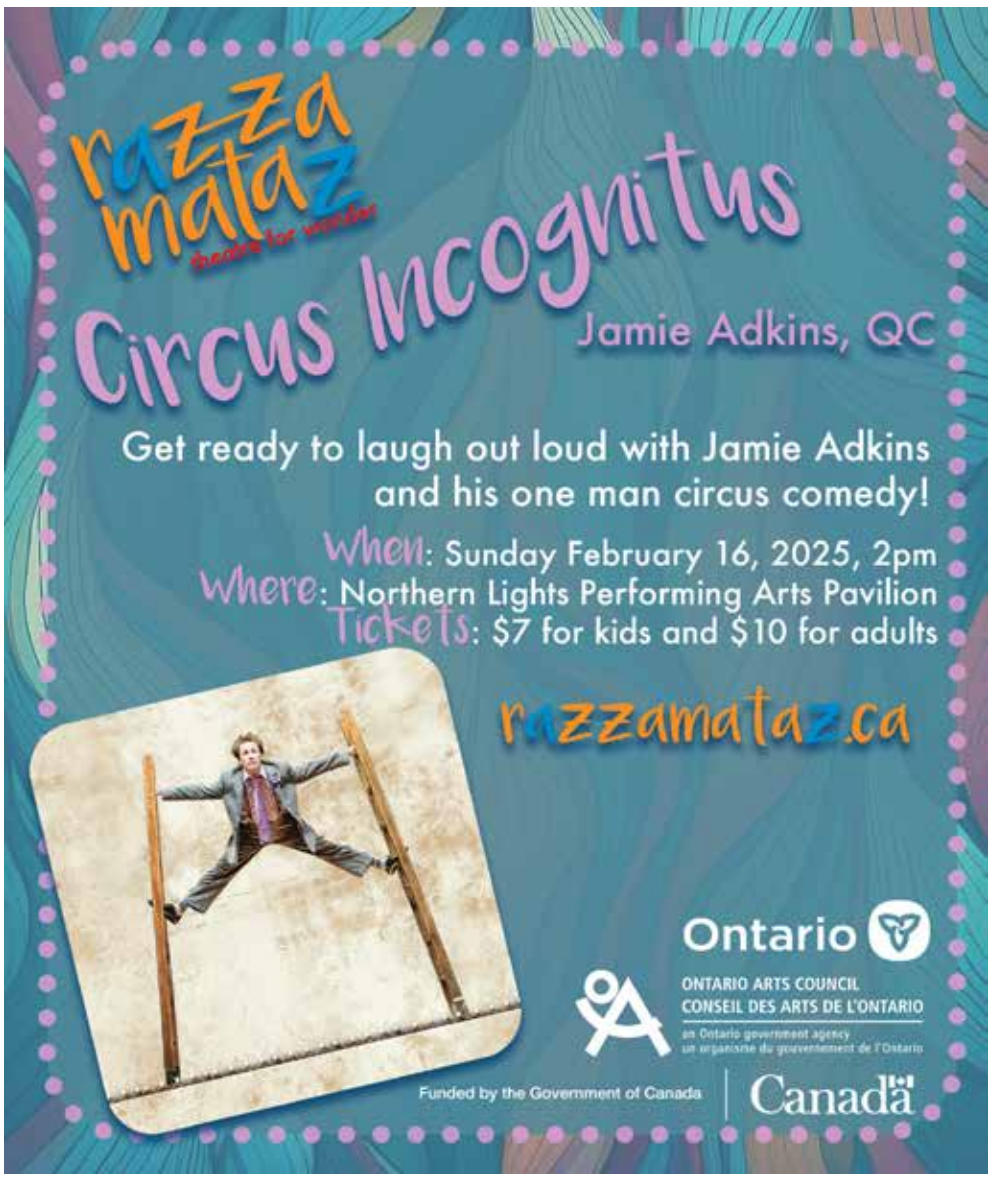
Membership was up last year, with an increase in the number of people interested in starting hobby farms and homesteads. Schleifenbaum said there's been a resurgence in young people interested in the lifestyle.

"That's super exciting," she said. "You don't have to sell produce or run a meat production facility to join HCFA. If you have a horse, a couple chickens in your backyard, or just a general interest – anybody is welcome to come and join us."

Minna Schleifenbaum was elected HCFA president for a third term at the organization's Jan. 16 AGM. *Submitted*.

Looking ahead to this year, Schleifenbaum noted HCFA is looking to run some large animal first aid clinics, to provide some helpful tips and tricks for diagnosing and addressing minor problems. The group will also be hosting a series of workshops on growing produce in the County.

"Just general advice on how to cultivate your land… we want to host regular activities throughout the warmer months, probably starting towards the end of April and running through the summer," she said. "We're also planning to host our Fall Festival again in September."



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HKPR NEWS

Piggott to lead merged unit

Dr. Thomas Piggott has been appointed as the first medical officer of health and CEO for the recently-merged Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough health unit (HKNP).

In a release to media Feb. 4, board chair Ron Black said Piggott is a familiar face to many in the community given his years in charge at Peterborough Public Health (PPH).

"Dr. Piggott brings excellent knowledge of our community and public health to the role, and we are confident that our mandate of protecting and promoting the health of all residents will be met and exceeded upon," Black said.

Describing Piggott as an "accomplished public health physician with a breadth of professional experience and community service," Black said the doctor will oversee all public health initiatives in the region.

Piggott started with PPH in December 2021. His prior experience includes stints as medical officer of health and VP lead for rural and remote health in northern Labrador and as a field physician with Doctors Without Borders in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He completed his medical training at McMaster University in Hamilton.

Black confirmed Dr. Natalie Bocking, who served as medical officer of health with the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit (HKPR), has been appointed deputy medical officer of health with HKNP.

"We had two great candidates who challenged the board process and both incumbents were very effective leaders of their respective organizations," Black said.

Work is ongoing to determine senior leadership team responsibilities, Black said, with a priority on design of a second public health physician position - communicated as part of the plan for strengthening medical coverage for the new organization.

Black said the board is continuing to discuss a new name for the merged unit, with rebranding to come later this year.

HKNP is serving as the legal name of the organization, with operations continuing under the separate HKPR and PPH banners temporarily. Black reiterated there has been no impact on programs and services

Dr. Thomas Piggott will serve as acting medical officer of health for the new HKNP health unit. *Submitted*.

Warnings on student vaccinations

Families with school-aged children in Haliburton County are being encouraged to update student immunization records by Feb. 24.

The health unit says approximately 1,400 students enrolled in school in Haliburton County, City of Kawartha Lakes, and Northumberland County have outdated medical records.

Under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*, all students from junior kindergarten to Grade 11 – born between 2008 and 2020 – are required to have up-to-date immunization records, or a valid exemption, for things like measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, polio and diphtheria.

"We do not automatically receive this information from family healthcare providers, so it's important for parents and guardians to report their child's immunization updates directly to the health unit," said Marianne Rock, manager of the unit's health protection division.

Students who haven't had their records updated by March 17 will be issued suspension notices, which will be enforced as of April 1. The health unit says suspensions will remain in effect until records are updated.

Parents and guardians can use the health unit's online portal for submission, at hkpr.on.ca/immunization, or call 1-866-888-4577 ext. 1507.

The health unit offers immunization clinics for people without a family doctor, with appointments available in-person at the Haliburton office at 191 Highland St. Unit 301. Clinics are held every two months on the third Wednesday. The next available clinic in Haliburton is Feb. 19. *(HKPR briefs compiled by Mike Baker).*

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GARDENS OF HALIBURTON

Bylaw finding septic problems

Continued from page 1

rented full-time as income investment properties."

He said he also believes the bylaw will result in owners being subjected to "unreasonable, excessive fines.

"I have no interest in continuing to have my cottage property contribute to the summer tourism economy under these circumstances imposed by the municipality, despite the resulting loss of rental income, which has been very helpful to offset the annual expenses of my family cottage," Pittet said.

J.T. Lowes, owner of All-Season Cottage Rentals, said Pittet is not alone in deciding to no longer rent out his cottage since the bylaws came into effect last fall.

"I've lost about 35 per cent of our cottages since the bylaw came into play, so it's made a huge impact," Lowes said.

He's been crunching numbers; estimating fewer travellers coming to his cottages will result in $1.2 million in lost income to the County for his business alone; noting there are six cottage rental agencies in the Highlands. He thinks it will result in a "noticeable" decrease in tourists to the County.

He said All-Season Cottage Rentals has already had to downsize staff, eliminating 20 positions, such as cleaners, "so it's hurting local employment."

Lowes added they are losing more family-owned cottages, than investor renters.

"Because they have so many bookings, it's not a big deal." He said most of their customers own the family cottage and rent it out three to four weeks in the summer to help cover costs, such as property taxes, maintenance, and renovations. "They're saying it's just not worth it… the cost… the hassle."

Lowes said the economic impact filters down to building companies, tradespeople and contractors, who won't be getting as much work, for example, rebuilding decks and docks. "It's going to have a ripple effect."

Politicians address concerns

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter said if rental agencies are claiming a loss of 35-40 per cent business, "I'm not sure that can be entirely blamed on the bylaw; it could have nothing to do with the bylaw." He noted the impact of COVID, and the takeover of homes to become investor short-term rentals. "There's always booms and I don't want to say busts, we're not in a bust, but the booms are generally followed by a trough."

Carter feels good about the bylaws. "It's not going to be perfect. Nothing that big is, but anybody that is complaining has to understand that, sorry, but we're here to represent the interests of all the public. This was the best way we could do that."

Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen agrees. She said there are good reasons for the bylaws.

"We'll end up with units that are safe. That's what concerns me now. We've got people renting out units, kind of on the QT, things like old cottages that might not be fire safe, accessible."

She doesn't think the bylaws will harm the tourism industry, but rather, "I want our tourists to have a good experience, a safe experience.

"Of course, a cottage rental agency is going to say things aren't great, but for us, so far, so good. We're not hearing any major concerns. During the course of the bylaw being reviewed and approved, we heard a lot, yes, but since it's been approved, things have gone quiet."

Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey said he is hearing concerns about some things in the bylaws. He said there may be faults that need addressing. He's aware that some owners with structures on shore road allowances are having to remove, or move them, to get licenced and the process is difficult in winter. "So, we need to look at those kinds of things and get those out of the way."

As for rental agencies losing business, Fearrey said, "they may be partially right. I'm not saying they're wrong." He said rental agencies are legitimate businesses that follow the rules.

"But there are a lot of individuals I've had calls from, saying 'why are you doing this?' and I'm saying, 'why don't you want it?' They don't want to tell me, but the answer is because they were getting $2,000-a-week for so many weeks and pocketing all of that money, not paying HST. I don't think that's right."

Bylaw finding issues

Dysart et al bylaw supervisor, Hailey Cole, said they'd approved 69 licences as of Jan. 27, with another 20 pending due to issues.

"The most common ones we're seeing is an overuse of septic tanks for the number of bedrooms," she said. For example, she explained people are providing septic maintenance reports with a three-bedroom requirement. "And then we go look at their Airbnb ad, and they're advertising five bedrooms. We're seeing a lot of these Airbnb ads where someone has a two-bedroom septic tank, advertising for 12 people."

She said they are telling renters they either have to decommission bedrooms or fully replace their septic tank.

She said the shore road allowance issue is tying up some applications, too. They have expedited licences of occupation until people can purchase shore road allowances. Structures built before 1977 are exempt. If after 1977, it's considered illegal.

Highlands East junior planner, Kim Roberts, said last week they'd received and processed 17 applications. Four are in review, 10 have received conditional licensing, and three have been turned down due to septic capacity issues. "Septic capacity and non-compliant shoreline structures have been our two largest issues with licence issuance."

Eric Guay, chief building official of Minden Hills, said they'd had 23 applications as of Jan. 29. They have not begun inspections but are seeing similar septic and shore road allowance issues as Dysart et al.

Algonquin Highlands planner, Sean O'Callaghan, said they had 17 approved licences as of last week, and "we are experiencing the same issues that Hailey has noted."

Some STR owners in Haliburton County rent through AirBnB. *Pexels.*

Appeal to council

Lowes said he and one of his renters are planning to make a delegation to Dysart et al council, likely in March. They may also go to Algonquin Highlands, Highlands East and Minden Hills.

He said in his opinion the bylaw is "overbearing. There are so many issues preventing people from renting anymore, saying it's just not worth it… I don't need that extra $8,000-a-year bad enough to go through all of this."

He feels cottages managed by companies such as his should be treated differently.

But overall, he questions the need for bylaws at all.

"Every issue put in place could have already been addressed with existing bylaws, but they're not being enforced. One bylaw officer working Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. [doesn't make sense] when the majority of problems are on weekends. And the majority of the problems are regular cottagers and homeowners. STRs are a small percentage of the issue. So, the answer is let's put in a new, really complicated, bylaw? And the bylaw may have started out as a good idea, and a way to deal with a problem but they have taken it way too far. It has impacted us. It has impacted the industry. And it's going to impact the entire County."

But the politicians, including Danielsen, all said lake health should be paramount when first grappling with the bylaws. Danielsen added, "all of these bylaws are passed with the full understanding they're going to need regular review. We want to get it right."

Carter added, "there's been really outrageous things sent to us from people complaining. But every jurisdiction across North America pretty much has been dealing with this, or will have to deal with this soon. I think we came up with one of the better solutions out there."

[With files from Mike Baker].

A MESSAGE FROM
Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

TheHighlander
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OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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We all want to get it right

By Lisa Gervais

I haven't had a call from anybody saying they are happy Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East, and Minden Hills are now asking short-term rental owners to voluntarily apply for licences.

I have been contacted by people who are outraged local government has said 'no' to their applications, or sent them back for more work.

Rarely do we hear from people who are happy about things. But we do hear from those who are upset.

It's early days, but I am surprised by how few renters have applied for their licences. The number stood at just 126 as of last week. In Dysart alone, they think there are 400 rental properties. The townships are stepping up the process, issuing more letters, so it's expected the numbers will climb.

What are we hearing?

Some renters are upset that structures on shore road allowances are holding up their applications. They cannot understand why a shed near the lake is not allowed since they are not renting that shed out. They are being told they have to get rid of it or move it. They can't do that in winter. In some townships, it means their licence is being held up. In others, they are getting conditionally approved but must move the shed once the snow melts. This part of the bylaws can appear rather punitive and some councils are reconsidering.

But we are also hearing troublesome reports from bylaw across the County. People are submitting reports about septic capacity and it is clear they are renting to far too many people than their septic can handle. This is the very stuff politicians wanted to target when they first envisioned a short-term rental program. It's these STRs that are putting pressure on our lakes and leading to things such as blue-green algae blooms – a death knell for the Highlands' most precious asset: our waterways. No bylaw department should turn a blind eye to this, and we do not want them to.

Any new bylaw – remember the shoreline preservation bylaw? – comes with growing pains.

There is no doubt that some things – such as proper septic capacity – are correct in the STR bylaw. The shore road allowance aspect will likely undergo some level of review. Regardless, I think having some rules and regulations in place are better than the wild, wild west of renting that has been going on in Haliburton County – particularly since COVID.

Just as it is time to review the shoreline preservation bylaw now that there is concrete evidence as to how it is working – there will be a time to review the STR bylaw once we have more information. Some say people are getting out of the renting business and it will have devastating effects on our community. We certainly hope not, but we won't really know until a full season of summer cottage rentals is under our belts.

We cannot scrap it completely without giving it a try.

People have a right to be upset. Others have a right to say we must stay the course. The proof will be in the pudding. Politicians are open to dialogue. After all, we all want to get this right.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Building healthy community

By Peter Ferri

Being part of a healthy and growing community is very exciting, yet sometimes frustrating.

Haliburton County is definitely one of Ontario's growing communities. A wonderful destination to discover and explore. Like all growing communities, there are always growing pains related to the community's needs.

Being part of an active grassroots organization, Aging Together as Community, I have had the pleasure of working with amazing people from our area who are connected and dedicated to making a positive difference for not only our seniors but for a healthy intergenerational community.

ATAC, as we refer to ourselves, is an organization making a difference with seniors in many areas within our County. With that, we are interested in working together to make a positive difference.

We have positioned ourselves in the public eye and enjoy being part of information sharing and change. As we continue along our journey, people reach out to us to make a difference. We encourage that.

Quite often until an issue or problem has been brought to the attention of people who can make a difference in policies and procedures, things continue along unchanged. Sometimes that's ok. Sometimes it can be a constant complaint that only festers and erodes, impacting community members endlessly in negative ways.

Stating this, ATAC has found itself in the position that community members, usually seniors, turn to us to be their voice. I find myself in such a privileged position to receive these requests for support. We are an organization that takes this position seriously and with integrity.

When we are made aware of an issue in our County that impacts people negatively, we use our voice to support constructive change and move to make a difference using our power of influence.

With this being said, we have been presented with a snow removal issue in the village of Haliburton. With our current amount of snow, it's a huge undertaking for a town like Haliburton to clear and remove snow on an ongoing basis.

The persistent question being asked of us is, "what about all of the snow banks between the cars and the sidewalks?" Our sidewalks in Haliburton are cleared well but with the snow not being removed from the sidewalk, large snow banks become quite impossible to maneuver safely.

This is a very unsafe practice for all residents and visitors to Haliburton to maneuver. This is an accessibility issue that needs to be addressed as soon as possible. Our streets are well-cleared yet the snow banks on the side make it impossible to get to the cleared sidewalks from our vehicles. Wow, we've had our snow come back with vengeance this past winter and once again with it, this perpetual problem persists.

Once being made aware of this obstacle; I found myself parking my car and having to walk/slide down the snow-covered slippery town street. I just managed it, yet realized how dangerous it is for all people. Yet for seniors and youth it is incredibly dangerous and an almost impossible task to navigate.

All I can think about is that it would be totally impossible for someone physically impaired and/or wheelchair-bound to access our downtown shopping and banking. I have not done the research on this but I know there are solutions to alleviate this problem. I'm sure it will cost the municipality money but it is a priority.

This is the year, 2025, that Ontario was to meet all criteria for full accessibility. Mobility is a personal human right. This is a safety, as well as an equity, issue. As we grow, we must move forward, supporting all of our community members. That means everyone.

Speaking to this in a public forum is a privilege and an honour. Let's work together to make Haliburton County a safe environment for everyone. It's too great of a destination to leave anyone behind.

Peter Ferri is with Aging Together as Community.

THEHIGHLANDER.CA

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Anne Beattie-Stokes of Algonquin Highlands sent in this photo.

LETTERS

Team Canada versus Trump

Dear editor,

I would like to thank the prime minister, all premiers and those who have developed a Team Canada position to defend against this unpalatable situation caused by Donald Trump (aka Agent Orange).

Matching tariffs and blocking or reducing the export of essential goods and/or energy is certainly warranted if matters escalate. Such actions will no doubt have the support of most Canadians.

Strangely, there might be a silver lining to this situation if two things happen.

One is an increased diversity of trade with other countries – particularly those that still believe in a rules-based international system. Companies should realize both the short-and-long range benefits of diversification instead of placing all eggs in one basket. Tax incentives and initial financial support might be needed to spur action in the area.

The second (and perhaps more important) is the elimination of trade barriers between provinces. I find it difficult to understand how countries within the European Union can trade barrier-free while companies and citizens in Canada face interprovincial barriers. It made no sense decades ago and makes even less sense today. All this takes to come about is political will.

I hope that all premiers and the federal government work diligently toward making that silver lining come to fruition,

Finally, I hope that all levels of government, corporations, media and Canadian citizens do whatever it takes in a Team Canada approach to weather this storm. I, and probably most Canadians, are willing to take appropriate action.

Dennis Choptiany
Markham/Koshlong Lake

Enforce rental rules

Dear editor,

Re… New housing supports falling flat in County, The Highlander, Jan. 30.

Mayor Bob Carter hit the nail on the head. As a landlord, I have experienced the downside of renting.

There are cases of tenants charged with fraud for non-payment of rent. If more landlords would charge tenants with fraud, this would show on the tenants' record, as fraud is a criminal offense in Canada.

The crazy thing is, if the tenant is receiving social assistance and does not use the money that is given for rent, and does not pay rent, it is fraud against social assistance, plus fraud against the landlord.

Yet, this happens over and over, which takes money out of the social assistance budget for others, and money from landlords who have expenses to pay.

However, tenants will have a lawyer at no charge take the case to tribunal. They will usually find some loophole, which the landlord, without legal help to contest, then loses their case. Usually, a payment plan is made, which the tenant does not keep, and the process begins again.

This happened to me. I finally got an order for eviction but there was a stay of the order, with a hearing scheduled in three months.

The government encourages fraud. If the government wants more rentals, then the laws have to be enforced and the rules of the LTB (Landlord and Tenant Board) have to be changed so the landlords have more protection.

Charles Gerditschke
Moore Lake

Don't be a litterbug

Dear editor,

It has been a couple of weeks since a new fast-food chain opened its doors in Haliburton.

You know how I found out about it? By driving from Gooderham where I live along County Rd. 3 and seeing empty bags and food wrappings with the new fast food chain's logo on them scattered on the newly-fallen snow.

I predict that it is the same picture that you will be seeing soon of wrappers, bags and cups floating in Head Lake or scattered in the parks of Haliburton.

A few years ago, another fast food chain came to Haliburton and the same thing happened: cups, cups, cups everywhere. Just look around you.

What to say or where to start with people who find it acceptable to toss their garbage wherever they please is beyond the scope of this letter. But to say the packaging is biodegradable is not good enough for me. Dog poop is also biodegradable.

Reiner Arnold
Gooderham

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Notice of Sewage Service Rates By-Law Amendments

Dysart et al Council, at their March 25, 2025 meeting, will be considering changes to By-Law 2024-22, being a by-law to impose fees and charges for the provision of Communal Sewage Services. This amendment will reflect the following increases:

- ERU effective January 1, 2025; and
- Metered sewage rate April 1, 2025.

Notice of Comprehensive Fee By-Law Amendments

Dysart et al Council, at their February 25, 2025 meeting, will be considering changes to By-Law 2024-57, being a by-law to impose fees and charges. This amendment will reflect the following fee changes:

1. An increase in ice rental fees for the A.J. LaRue Arena;
2. An increase in planning fees for zoning by-law amendment applications, requests to waive site plan control, minor variance applications, road closing applications, zoning and building compliance letters and printing services; and
3. An administrative update to make the Haliburton County Farmers' Market Association's use of Head Lake Park location for the farmer's market a recurring annual fee for future markets (Currently listed as 2024 only).

Further information on these fee changes will be available on https://www.dysartetal.ca/.

Notice of Procedural By-Law Amendments

As per Policy No. 24 – Public Notice Policy, notice is hereby being provided that Dysart et al Council, at their regular meeting to be held on February 25, 2025, will be amending the Procedural By-Law to incorporate the creation of a Personnel and Administration Committee.

Mallory Bishop, Municipal Clerk

Schmale hopeful tariffs can be avoided

By Mike Baker

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Jamie Schmale said he was "shocked and angered" by U.S. president Donald Trump's threat to impose 25 per cent tariffs on most Canadian imports last week, though is hopeful for a compromise after the measures were paused for 30 days Feb. 3.

"Nobody wins a trade war," Schmale told *The Highlander*, when asked for his opinion on the Trump-sanctioned tariffs and retaliatory measures announced by Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau Feb.1.

The recently inaugurated U.S. president said the tariffs are a tool for growing the American economy, protecting jobs and raising tax revenue. He had called on the Canadian and Mexican governments to bolster border security to prevent what he calls an outpouring of illegal immigrants and illicit drugs, such as fentanyl, from crossing into the U.S.

On Monday, Trudeau said Canada will invest $1.8 billion to send 10,000 frontline workers and additional resources to key crossings. Trump subsequently paused tariffs until March 5.

Schmale said investing to enhance border security is something he's been preaching for years, calling for the use of x-ray technology to scan cargo containers and greater inter-jurisdictional cooperation between law enforcement agencies.

"When you talk about the numbers of illegal firearms, drugs, the human trafficking, stolen vehicles that are going back and forth between [Canada and the U.S.], it's clear to see the border is absolutely insecure," Schmale said.

With a significant increase in the number of opioid-related deaths in recent years - estimated at 49,105 between January 2016 and June 2024 by the Public Health Agency of Canada – and the flow of, Schmale says, up to 500,000 illegal immigrants into the country, the MP believes Canada should be investing in its borders for its own benefit.

"Although it's the Americans demanding this, it is also the right thing to do for our country."

Schmale said the tariffs would, "impact every sector, causing massive issues on a wide scale that we haven't seen in recent memory."

He's calling on Trudeau to resume parliament early to deal with the threat. After the prime minister resigned last month – effective March 9 following the election of a new Liberal Party leader – it was announced the government would be prorogued until March 24.

"Had our parliament been sitting, had the government been focused on Canadians rather than its leadership race, we could have got ahead of this a lot faster than we did," Schmale said. "This is serious. This is people's livelihoods at stake. We need parliament to come back, and if the prime minister refuses to do that then he should call an election."

A federal vote is due to take place by Oct. 20 this year.

MP Jamie Schmale is hopeful an agreement can be reached between the U.S. and Canadian governments to avoid tariffs on imported goods. *File*.

While the U.S. has traditionally been "a friend to Canada" with largely intertwined economies, Schmale feels now is the time to explore partnerships with other countries. He said Canada currently has around 50 free trade agreements with nations in Europe, Asia, and South America.

The MP also wants to encourage greater trade between all provinces and territories, while implementing measures to establish Canada as a manufacturing hub.

"We noticed it during the pandemic – we're too reliant on other countries. When the hard times hit, we do have shortages, and we do have problems. We need to make it so that we're not so much a consumption economy, but a manufacturing and production economy that can take care of itself first, and also help to supply the rest of the world," Schmale said.

County response

Amanda Conn, executive director of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, said there's been lots of angst over the past week.

"In Haliburton County we definitely have organizations that import and export. We are hearing concerns and uncertainty on how tariffs and retaliatory tariffs would impact the economy," Conn said. "The message we're sharing now is that it's more important than ever to shop local."

She said the chamber is working with businesses on ways they can prepare for tariffs, though she's hopeful, given the suspension, they won't see the light of day.

Chamber president Joe Cox, controller at Francis Thomas Contracting, feels it's premature to speculate on how tariffs would impact County businesses, especially those in the construction industry that rely on American imports for materials.

"I'd say we're very much at a wait and see stage for right now. See where the cards drop before we get too reactionary," Cox said.

Splitting time between two special places

By Mike Baker

County resident Brianna Freitag has always had a unique perspective on life.

While her friends were busy in school or launching their careers, she prioritized planning for her long-term future and eventual retirement – at the ripe age of 21. Investing in a fixer-upper cottage in Haliburton County in 2005, she was determined to continue making the sort of memories that made her childhood – growing up in Oshawa but spending summers on Balsam Lake in Coboconk – so extraordinary.

"I basically grew up at my grandparents' cottage – that was one of the main things I really cherished from my childhood," Freitag said "As I got older and got to grips with working life, I definitely missed those days, but realized there was nothing stopping me from recreating them."

While Freitag's ever-evolving career in the publishing industry kept her busy - spending eight years as assistant art director with the *National Post*, another eight working for Thomson Reuters, and time freelancing for *Lexpert Magazine*, *Canadian Lawyer Magazine* and *Canadian HR Strategy Magazine* – she always found time to escape to her little slice of rural paradise.

Relocating to the County full-time in 2020, she quickly came to grips with life in the Highlands. So much so that she doesn't ever see herself leaving – at least not permanently.

"Haliburton has always been a place pretty close to my heart – it's one of those true small-town communities that has maintained its identity, where people know and care about one another," she said. "I feel the warmth every time I head into town."

Trips away are a little more frequent since she began working for *Up Here Magazine* in 2021. A northern publication located in Yellowknife, the bi-monthly covers stories from across the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon. As the magazine's artistic director, Freitag is responsible for design, layout and publication.

She added another hat to her repertoire just before the holidays, giving herself the best Christmas present she could think of by investing in the business. She took 50 per cent ownership, alongside business partner Sherry Rioux, in mid-December.

With the magazine boasting 40 years of history in Canada's true north, Freitag said she feels a calling to ensure it lives on. She has plans to expand the publication's presence across Canada – starting with southern Ontario. Alongside its six regular editions, there are also six tourism-themed publications and four business specials.

"We're trying to spread the word and get these amazing stories of the north, from the north, in front of as many people as possible," Freitag said. "Life up there is different, and we like to celebrate that. But really, there's not a whole lot of difference between how people live there and here."

Brianna Freitag, left, recently bought *Up Here Publishing*, serving the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut, with business partner Sherry Rioux. *Submitted*.

Yellowknife has a population similar to that of the County – just over 20,000 people – and Freitag said the similarities don't end there.

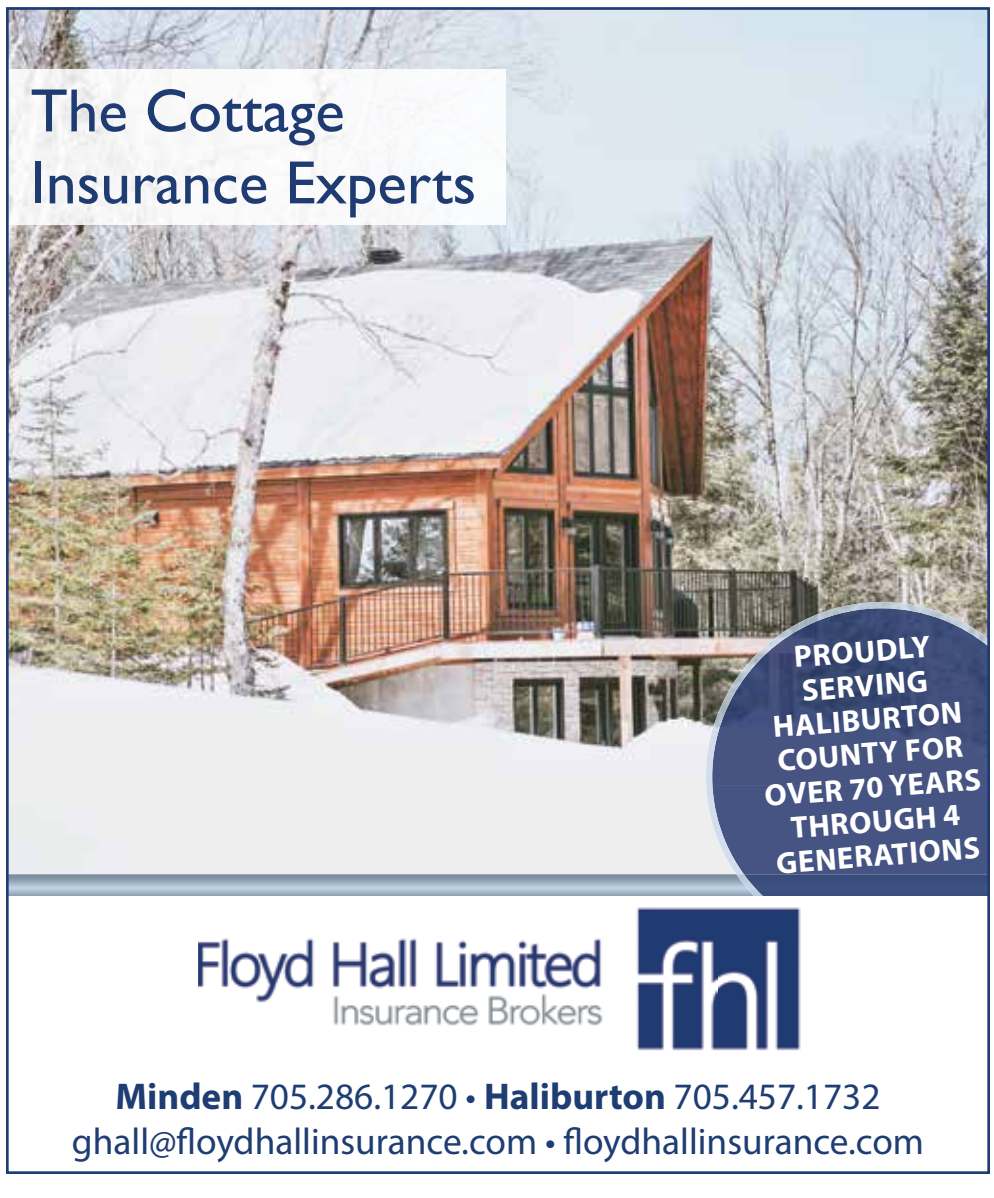
"Every time I fly in, I make sure to look out my window and am reminded just how familiar everything seems – seeing all the jack pines, undisturbed nature. It takes me back to how I felt when I was a kid and would be driving to Haliburton."

Like Haliburton village, which was developed around the shores of Head Lake, Yellowknife blossomed on the northern tip of Great Slave Lake. Protecting water and the environment is key to both communities' survival, Freitag said.

Just as she's seen, and felt, in the County these past 20 years – Yellowknifers know how to be hospitable, she said. Last winter, while hiking to a remote cabin she'd booked for the night, she arrived to find the owner cooking up a batch of fish stew. The pair shared a couple of hours chatting about their lives, and enjoying a hearty meal, while watching the Northern Lights.

"I feel very lucky that I get to split my time between two special places," she said.

To learn more, visit uphere.ca. Editions of the magazine can also be found as inserts in *The Globe and Mail*.



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A Hodgson family reunion

By Mike Baker

Peering out across Head Lake from the window of her new fourth-floor apartment at the Gardens of Haliburton retirement residence, Anna English said decades of magical memories come flooding back from her time teaching at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

The eldest daughter of Clayton Hodgson, six-term Member of Parliament for the former Victoria riding and patriarch of the Hodgson clan, English moved into the facility Jan. 6 - joining her younger sister, Margaret Downey, and sister-in-law, Barb Hodgson-Medd, at the Gardens.

Born and raised in the County, English graduated from the old Haliburton Secondary School, which once stood where her new home sits today. She went to university in Toronto – a big deal in those days – before returning home in 1953, after the opening of the new high school on the other side of the lake.

She spent 26 years teaching at the school, helping students to learn shorthand, typewriting, and business practices. Her late husband, Vance, owned and operated the Shell service station for many years.

"Lots of good memories made here," English told *The Highlander* during a Jan. 17 interview.

The past couple of weeks have been a constant trip down memory lane for the 96-year-old; she points to the Gardens' dining room, once a tennis court and playground, and reminisces about the hours spent playing with her classmates. A main floor hallway leading to recreation rooms sits on roughly the same spot as English's Grade 12 classroom.

There've been reconnections with familiar faces too – on more than one occasion, she's heard calls of "hi Mrs. English" from other Gardens' residents, people she taught decades ago. One of the kitchen staff she's taken a liking to said she was good friends with English's granddaughter, Crystal, who still lives in the community.

"I pretty quickly remembered what a close community Haliburton is. The people here know one another – that's what I like about it," English said.

Return 70 years in the making

Downey, 91, has been back in the County for four years, moving home in 2020 after a lifetime living in the Ottawa Valley.

With her late husband, Don, requiring long-term care, Downey – also a teacher during her working days - said Haliburton Extendicare was the first facility out of dozens she contacted to offer him a spot. So, the pair moved, with Downey renting an apartment in the downtown. It was a homecoming decades in the making.

When the first phase of the Gardens project opened in 2021, Downey was one of the facility's first residents. She was soon followed by Hodgson-Medd, who arrived that Thanksgiving. Downey said it was strange returning after more than 70 years away.

"Everything had changed so much. It really didn't seem like my hometown – the community has grown tremendously," Downey said. "I didn't know anybody – the only names I recognized were Lenny Salvatori and Curry Bishop."

Having her sister-in-law, who was married to John Douglas Hodgson – the man the local elementary school is named after, helped her settle.

"It was wonderful for me to have Barb come – I really felt like an outsider. I'd been away for so long," Downey said. "Now to have Anna here too…" she trails off, holding her emotions. "Again, it's wonderful. We have not lived in the same community for a long time and not had too much contact. There has been a lot of catching up."

That's usually done over a game of euchre or bingo – popular games among the Gardens' residents. Downey also enjoys the weekly musical groups and performances on Fridays. In fact, she was counting down the minutes to an afternoon jam later that day with Trina West and Albert Saxby.

Siblings Margaret Downey, Anna English and Barb Hodgson-Medd have recently been reunited at the Gardens of Haliburton. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

There are regular outings too – Downey recalls a trip to Sir Sam's, where she took a ski lift to the top of the hill to enjoy the views of nearby Eagle Lake. There have also been excursions to Casino Rama and Peterborough for shopping, while staff make routine trips into Haliburton village to pick-up any needed supplies.

"This place has really fitted my needs and what I was looking for. My life was pretty dreary after my husband passed, but I've really been quite happy here. To have this chance to reconnect with family – it's been a gift," Downey said.

A lifetime of memories

For 87-year-old Hodgson-Medd, most of her adult life has revolved around Haliburton County. After meeting Doug during her teenage years, the pair wed after she graduated from high school. They moved around a bit during their early years of marriage – first to Stratford and then Millbrook, where he scored his first principal job.

There were frequent calls to return home, Barb recalls. They eventually did in 1963, with Doug becoming principal at HHSS. He went on to serve as the school board's director of education before retiring in 1984. The pair lived in Haliburton together until Doug's death in 1997.

Together they had four children – Chris, the former reeve of Dysart township and three-term MPP for Haliburton-Victoria-Brock, Andrew, longtime realtor and former owner of Century 21, John and Katherine, who have both passed.

While her remaining sons stayed in Haliburton, Hodgson-Medd remarried in 2001 and split her time between her home community and Pontypool. She spent winters in the small village for about 20 years, returning to her roots permanently in 2021 following the death of her second husband.

She reconnected with figures from her past instantly.

"The first day I came in here, I saw a group of girls playing a game of cards and one of them was Jeanne Egan – she lived two doors down from me while growing up; I served tea at her wedding," Hodgson-Medd said.

Salvatori was another – Barb said she and Doug traveled all over North America with Lenny and his wife, Betty. "We've had some laughs about the places we'd been and the things we got up to… I remember one event, Angela Lansbury (actress, known mostly for starring in *Murder, She Wrote*) was the speaker. She was so, so beautiful."

Hodgson-Medd said it's a blessing to be home, close to her family. Her cousin, Carol Chadwick, is also a resident of the Gardens.

"I'm glad this place was built – it's given people like me a chance to come back home, which has helped my family with not having to worry. That's the connection a lot of people have here – either family works here, or kids have retired to the cottage and moved their parents up to be close to them," Barb said.

"It's a nice home for us, back here in our hometown," English added.

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The lift is up where it belongs

The Haliburton Legion hosted the band, Adverse Conditions, for a fundraiser Feb. 1. The winter snowflake dinner and dance helped raise money for the branch's new lift. Tickets were $30 and a silent auction was held with prizes donated by businesses. With Adverse Conditions pumping out the tunes on stage, everyone had a fantastic evening while raising money for a good cause. Waller said the event raised approximately $5,000.

Top: Legion president Mike Waller and artist Tim Payment stand in front of Payment's donated painting. Top right: Super-fan Michelle Perrone takes a picture of Rich Anton playing his harmonica. Above left: Graham Mason and Terry Mason make a silent bid on one of the auction items. Above middle: Anton plays for the crowd. Above right: Valerie Ashton and John Niekraszewich dance up a storm. Right: Maggie Thompson and the brass section of Adverse Conditions giving it their all.
Photos by Justin Belanger.

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MINDEN

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The Minden Community Food Centre, your local charity working to reduce food insecurity for those in need, is seeking a new volunteer to join our Board of Directors.

We are looking for a compassionate person with strong communication skills and a supportive team player to help us achieve our mandate to provide supplemental healthy foods for our clients living in Minden Hills.

We are looking for someone to assume the position of Recording Secretary. Relevant skills include attention to detail, organizational skills to manage records, the ability to take accurate notes at our monthly meetings, and familiarity with Microsoft Word.

If you have the skills, time, and experience, we would like to hear from you by February 15, 2025. Please contact us by e-mail and tell us about your interest in the position of Recording Secretary and your background, skill set, and experience.

Send your e-mail to mcfc.BoardMembers@gmail.com

Hike Haliburton winter style

Hike Haliburton winter edition returned for a fourth year this past weekend, with 15 guided hikes organized to "highlight the beauty of the Highlands," County tourism manager Angelica Ingram said. Launched in 2020, the winter version of the popular fall festival – which began in the 2000s – is designed to give people the opportunity to explore some of the County's most prominent trails and nature reserves at a time when most prefer to be cozied up indoors. There were 11 hikes on Saturday and four on Sunday.

Top left: Heather Green, Marcia Mandel, Christine Hewitt, Carolyn Darnell, Anne-Marie Naidoo and Nolan Naidoo descend the rolling path back to the trailhead on Crane Lake. Top right: Mandel plays some peaceful grounding music on her flute for the group. Middle left: The hike crew, Darnell, Hewitt, Anne-Marie Naidoo, guide Mandel, Nolan Naidoo and Green. Middle right: A fallen tree beside Crane Lake. Above left: Mandel taps the chimes to calm the energy before the hike. Above middle: Mandel, Hewitt and Anne-Marie Naidoo absorb the tree's energy. Above right: Nolan Naidoo and Anne-Marie Naidoo from Keswick enjoying the beautiful winter day. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

STARS of the WEEK

ROWAN JOHNSON

Strong play throughout by the captain, netting multiple goals.

CHASE KERR

Led the team with his heart, setting the tone throughout.

GREYSON PARK

Demonstrated slick dekes all tourney with key goals when needed. *Photos by Tim Tofflemire.*

Greyson Park charges towards the net and celebrated in mid-air after a goal. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Storm B final champs

The Cheryl Smith Re/Max U13 Rep Team stormed through the Cody Hodgson Tournament this past weekend, capped off by a commanding B finals' title, their performance underscored by their relentless drive and unyielding confidence.

With a perfect record, so far, in the VDHL season two bracket, the Storm entered the tournament ready to battle for supremacy, and they did not disappoint.

In their opening game against the Smiths Falls Bears, the Storm's suffocating pressure was evident from the start. Despite a stout defensive effort from the Bears, the Storm played a patient, controlled game, with James Gooley finding the back of the net for a hard-fought 1-0 victory. Goalie Corbin Elliot stood tall, earning the shutout and setting the tone for the tournament.

Game two saw the Storm shift into high gear as they overwhelmed the Lakefield Chiefs with a dominant 6-0 win. The offense came from all directions, with Austin Cunningham (2), Kelson Bagshaw, Rowan Johnson, Nash Wilson, and Greyson Park all finding the scoresheet. The balanced attack was matched by gritty forechecking from Jaxon Hurd, Chase Kerr and Bentley Bull, who created space and disrupted the Chiefs' rhythm. Marshall Heasman also posted a shutout, ensuring the Storm's defensive dominance continued.

The semi-finals brought a familiar foe in the Clearview Canucks, a team the Storm had battled to the wire in last year's Silverstick final. This time, the Storm's defensive corps, anchored by Liam Milburn, Linus Gervais, Rowen Little, Connor Iles, and Johnson, played with precision. In a back-and-forth contest, goaltender Elliot was stellar, but the game remained deadlocked late, pushing it into overtime. After a tense, penalty-ridden stretch, the Storm fell to the Canucks in a heartbreaking, five-overtime thriller. But the loss didn't dampen the Storm's spirit.

With fierce determination, the Storm rebounded in the B final against the Wasaga Beach Stars. Fired up by their semi-final defeat, the Storm came out with a vengeance, overwhelming the Stars in a spectacular 8-2 win. The intensity was palpable as they dominated every facet of the game, with each player contributing to the onslaught.

Coach Chris Kerr and his staff were thrilled with the performance, which solidified the Storm's place as one of the tournament's top contenders.

With the B finals' victory secured, the Storm now set their sights on their next challenge: games against Mariposa and Brock. If this past weekend's performance is any indication, they're ready to continue their surge towards even greater success. *(Submitted).*

SCORE BOARD

Jan. 27

- U11 REP Cottage Country Building Supplies vs. Mariposa 4-1 L
- U13 REP Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Lindsay 3-1 W

Jan. 28

- U11LL Carquest Minden vs. Sturgeon 7-0 L
- U13LL Casey Water Well & Geothermal vs Mariposa 6-3 W

Jan. 30

- U11 REP Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Sturgeon 4-2 L
- U15 LL The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House vs. Millbrook 3-0 L

Jan. 31

- U13 LL Casey Water Wells & Geothermal vs Kawartha 5-1 W
- U18 LL Tom Prentice & Sons vs. Lindsay 5-2 L

Feb. 1

- U9 LL Sharp Electric vs. Woodville 8-0 L
- U11 LL Carquest Minden vs Kawartha 4-3 W
- U15 LL The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House vs. Kawartha 3-0 W

Feb. 2

- U15 LL The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House vs. Lindsay 7-1 W
- U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs. Brock 4-4 T

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Kieran Litterick cuts hard into the play during the Huskies 5-3 win over the Cougars Feb. 1. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Huskies building momentum

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies secured a playoff berth this week after momentum-boosting wins over rival outfits the Cobourg Cougars and Wellington Dukes.

This marks a fifth successive post-season appearance for the Huskies since they relocated to the Highlands in 2021. Head coach Ryan Ramsay indicated there's a different feel to this year's run, with the hometown team seeming to hit top form at the perfect time.

After a disappointing 6-2 defeat on the road to the King Rebellion Jan. 30, the Huskies rallied to knock off the Cougars 5-3 on home ice Feb. 1 and followed up with a 4-0 shutout win over the Wellington Dukes Feb. 4. The team sits third in the Ontario Junior Hockey League's East Conference with 69 points from 47 games – four back of the Toronto Jr. Canadians, who visit S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena on Saturday.

Ramsay noted the match-up is the Huskies' biggest of the season.

"Finishing second would secure home advantage for at least two rounds of playoffs. We're trying not to look too far ahead of ourselves, but second place would be nice," Ramsay said. "We're in the middle of a tough five-game segment. The boys got the job done against Cobourg and Wellington, which is good on them, but the work doesn't stop."

After the Canadiens, the Huskies travel to the table-topping Trenton Golden Hawks Feb. 11 to face the number one ranked Jr. A team in Canada, before a Valentine's Day trip to the GTA to face the Burlington Cougars Feb. 14.

Huskies 5-3 Cobourg

Saturday's tilt was a hard-hitting affair, as is tradition anytime the Huskies and Cougars lock horns, Ramsay said.

Goals from Noah Lodoen and Declan Bowmaster put the home side in a commanding position early in the first. After Beckett Ewart responded for the Cougars, Bowmaster added a second in the middle frame to make it a 3-1 game.

The Cougars rallied in the third – Wyatt Gregory and Zachary Carrier scoring 56 seconds apart to tie the game, but a powerplay marker from Daniel Vasic at the four-minute mark stood up as the game-winner. Co-captain Ty Petrou made sure of the result at 7:39 for his 19th goal of the season.

There were fireworks at the final buzzer with the two teams engaging in a line brawl. Defencemen Raine Nadeau and Tyson Rismond received three and two-game suspensions for their part, ruling them out of Tuesday's tilt in Wellington.

Huskies 4-0 Wellington

Goaltender Tyler Hodges turned aside 35 shots to record his second shutout of the season as the Huskies kept the fourth-place Dukes at arm's length in the league standings.

Alongside the missing defencemen, the Huskies were also without key forwards Nathan Poole (sickness) and Alex Bradshaw (injury), while Bowmaster departed hurt early in the first. Ramsay confirmed the injured pair would likely be out of the lineup "for a while."

In a fine display of the Huskies' depth, fourth liners Chase Del Colombo, Ryan Gosse and Isaac Larmand combined for three of the team's four goals. Centre Kieran Litterick was also on the scoresheet.

"It speaks volumes of the character and quality of players we have, that even when guys are hurt and teams are shutting down our top lines, we have guys ready to step up and chip in," Ramsay said.

The coach also commended the team's defensive display in recent weeks – since a New Year's Eve win over the Lindsay Muskies, the Huskies have conceded two goals or less in seven of 12 games and recorded three shutouts.

"We're playing good defence. This late in the season, we don't need guys rushing up too much. Looking at our forward depth, the message is just to let everyone play their positions and their role. If everyone does that, we're going to be well-off and I think that's shown with the results," Ramsay said.

"It's building momentum and driving home good habits, which is huge at this time of the year with what's coming (playoffs)."

Puck drop in Minden for the JRC game Feb. 8 is 4 p.m.

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Music to bring folks to Haliburton County

By Mike Baker

The County of Haliburton is hoping to drum up interest in winter tourism by partnering with area businesses and music venues on a series of intimate concerts throughout February.

The first-annual February Folk Fest will feature more than 30 artists performing at locations across the Highlands. While events are organized by the different venues, the County is reimbursing most performances to the tune of $150, says tourism manager Angelica Ingram.

The goal, she said, is to provide free or low-cost experiences and programs to County residents and visitors on weekends. It kicked off Feb. 1, coinciding with Hike Haliburton winter edition.

"We are very pleased and excited to see how quickly everyone jumped on board with this new initiative. As soon as the festival was announced we had local businesses and musicians eager to get involved," Ingram said. "February Folk Fest is a celebration of talented musicians and community spirit… I truly believe it will emphasize how Haliburton County has become a destination for live music and hope it spurs continued interest in the performing arts."

Cover band Franks and Beans performed at Sir Sam's Feb. 1, with Will Surphlis playing the Boshkung Smokehouse and Terra Lightfoot taking to the stage at the Haliburton Legion.

This coming weekend sees Hilary Hawke play a 'Home Routes House Concert' at Haliburton United Church Feb. 7; Woody Woodburn at Sir Sam's, Van Hilliert at Boshkung Smokehouse, Brian Wilde at the Haliburton Legion, and Nicholas Russell at Sir Sam's – all Feb. 8.

The 'Folk Fest Friends' Jeff Moulton, Anna Morgan, Jodi Timgren and Drew Allen will play the Haliburton Legion Feb. 9, with Erin Blackstock at Boshkung Smokehouse, Heart and Soul at the Dominion Hotel, and Russell at Rhubarb Restaurant.

There are performances later in the month by Trina West, Thom Lambert, Joslynn Burford, The Night Howlers, Mike Stoneman, Bill Black, Homestead Elite, and North of Seven.

Ingram said while the Haliburton County Folk Society is collaborating on the event, and it's themed around folk music, other genres will be featured.

"My hope is this generates business for our local economy, while celebrating the talented array of artists we have in the Highlands," Ingram said. "Things like Hike Haliburton have long drawn visitors to the area and I believe the Folk Fest will be similar in nature."

For a full lineup, visit myhaliburtonhighlands.com/february-folk-fest.

County-based musician Nicholas Russell will perform a series of gigs at Sir Sam's Inn and Rhubarb Restaurant as part of February Folk Fest. *File*.

Hali contractor: 'this is actually pretty cool'

By Lisa Gervais

Brad Lodge had a copy of *Colin & Justin's Sub-Zero Reno* before the Paramount+ show began airing Jan. 31. But he didn't watch it. Until a recent binge viewing.

Brad Lodge Construction is the contractor featured in the show along with the Scottish designers.

"I didn't want to see myself on camera. I was over it," Lodge said this week. "Then I watched it, and Colin and Justin said nothing but good things about me. I ended up watching the whole thing the other night and thought 'this is actually pretty cool'."

While not one to talk himself up, and admitting the whole process was very different for him, he concedes, it left him with a good feeling and he was getting a lot of nice comments while out and about in the County.

He's known Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan for a couple of years now, and done little jobs here and there for them. "We always kind of talked about what we were going to do… and it finally actually happened… so we made it work," he said.

Lodge and his 14-member crew worked with McAllister and Ryan on a winter renovation on Drag Lake. The series is currently streaming on Paramount+.

Lodge, who grew up in West Guilford, and lives in Carnarvon, said the exposure is priceless.

"It's great for people to know who we are. I grew up here. I know a lot of people. We are busy but can always plan for the future. And it's just good for people to recognize my whole team's hard work, not just mine."

A film crew from Manitoba was on-site at times through the renovation, while Lodge and his team had GoPro cameras.

No strangers to winter remodels, he said the biggest challenge may have been the road leading to the cottage. "We did crash many times and get a lot of vehicles stuck and just couldn't do things the way we did," he said.

Some crazy moments were not captured on camera, he added. For example, they pumped water from the lake and hand mixed about 1,000 bags of concrete. An excavator slid down a massive hill, spinning circles "which could have been catastrophic."

Another challenge for Lodge is he is used to controlling a build. He didn't have that same control with this one.

"For a build in the winter that went that fast… there were so many people we had to deal with every single day; that was definitely one of the most stressful times I've had in a long time."

As for being followed by a camera crew, he said it was nerve-wracking at first, and it didn't help that his crew was trying to get him to laugh when he was being interviewed. However, he came around.

"It's like at a wedding, you talk on the mic and you're nervous and the next thing you know, you don't want to let go of the mic."

Left to right: Oliver Tasnadi, Brad Lodge and Kalem Kyle. *Submitted*.

He adds words such as interesting, and weird to describe the experience. "We had a lot of fun, that's for sure." He also admits to showing frustration on camera. But in the end, he said he and his crew come across just like they are in real life. "Being ourselves… nervous, but genuine in ourselves."

EVENTS

Feb. 7 and 8
Celebrate Valentine's Day with a fun and creative craft activity - needle felting mini hearts! This adult workshop will happen on Feb. 7 at 11 am at the Wilberforce Library and Feb. 8 at 2 pm at the Minden Library.

Feb. 8, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
The Dorset Poker Run, hosted by the Lions Camp Dorset. More than 300 riders hit the trails to complete checkpoints and return back to camp to draw their poker hands, eat and enjoy fellow rider camaraderie. Grand prize is $1,500. To participate, call 705-766-2780, or email lionscampdorset@gmail.com.

Feb. 8, 8 a.m.
The 33rd annual Snowmobile Poker Run in support of the Haliburton Firefighters Association. First prize for best poker hand is a new snowmobile. Taking place at Haliburton Forest. For more information call 1-800-631-2198, or email reservations@haliburtonforest.com.

Feb. 8, 9 a.m.
The Minden Ice races return, as Ontario Ice Racing action is back at the Minden Fairgrounds. Experience adrenaline-packed racing on a frozen track. Spectator admission is free. All day. Sunday start time is 11 a.m. Running every weekend until March 1/2.

Feb. 8, 11 a.m.
Unlock your potential and set your intentions for the year ahead by participating in a 'create your own vision board' workshop at the Dysart library. Registration required. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca or call 705-457-2241 to register. This workshop is designed for adults.

Feb. 8, 1 to 3 p.m.
Celebrate Black History Month with a special screening of *Black Panther*! Screenings will start at 1 p.m. at both the Minden and Dysart Library. No registration required. All families welcomed. Movie is rated PG.

Feb. 8, 1 to 3 p.m.
Opening reception of the new exhibit 'Legacy' at Rails End Gallery in Haliburton. All are welcome to attend this group show by local artists. Running until April 12. Hours are Wednesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more, visit railsendgallery.com.

Feb. 9, 2 p.m.
Oakview Co-living is hosting an afternoon of poetry and music. The theme is 'hope springs eternal'. Admission is free with a donation to Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre. Featuring Ottawa-based musical duo Anne Hurley and Jim Videto, known professionally as Walk on the Wire. Located at 2029 Little Hawk Lake Road. Seating is limited. Reserve by emailing oakview.coliving@gmail.com, or calling Doug at 647-965-2564.

Feb. 12, 7 to 9 p.m.
'Tales from Haida Gwaii: Totems, Tides and Time' by local adventurers Sheila Ziman, Rob Kelly and Isabel Buttler is the latest feature through The Speaker Series' 'Telling Our Stories' initiative. Taking place at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association fish hatchery at 6712 Gelert Road. Admission is $15 payable at the door or online at tellingourstories.company.site. For more information, contact Barrie Martin at 705-457-7557 or barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised?
Email mike@thehighlander.ca.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton weekly activities
Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m in the clubroom. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo hopefully returning in March.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m. tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Coboconk
Second Monday of the month: General meeting - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.
First Wednesday of the month: Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. $15 per person.
Saturdays: Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

Feb. 28 luncheon, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Choose between liver and onions or shepherd's pie. Food bank donations appreciated.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce
Mon: 7 to 10 p.m.
Wed: 2 to 6 p.m.
Thurs: 2 to 10 p.m.
Fri: 2 to 11 p.m.
Sat: 2 to 9 p.m.
Sun: Special events only

Meat draw Feb. 8, 15 and 22 at 3 p.m.

Cornhole at 7 p.m. Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27. Cost is $5 per player.

Fish n' Chips Fridays Feb. 7 and 21, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per person.

LA Breakfast Feb. 9, from 9 to 11 a.m. Cost is $10.

Super Bowl party Feb. 9, at 4 p.m. Kick-off is 6:30 p.m. Party snacks will be available. There is a $5 cover charge.

Valentine's Day Dinner Feb. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. - enjoy some chicken marsala with salad, mashed potatoes, veggies and dessert. Cost is $20 per person.

Seniors 55+ lunch Feb. 14, 28, at noon. Cost is $17 per person.

Valentine's Day Dance Feb. 15, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Food is provided.

Ken McFarlane Ice Fishing Derby Feb. 22. Weigh in is at 6 p.m. Registration is $20.

Wings and jam session Feb. 28, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound.

Call for legion at 705-448-2221 for more information.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden
Monday - Thursday: Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

Weekly activities:
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Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m. Rug Hookers every second week.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

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EVENTS

STAINED GLASS WORKSHOPS from beginner up. Learn the art of Stained Glass. Call Tom at 705-286-3628

CALL TO ENTER - The Tour de Forest Summer Art Tour is looking for a variety of participants in both Studio Artists & Guest Artists. Please download the application from Haliburtontourdeforest.com. Deadline is February 16, 2025, for more information contact Laurie at 705-754-0444 or at tdefjurying@gmail.com

GORD KIDD & FRIENDS

FEBRUARY DATES – LIVE MUSIC

First Tuesday each month Dominion Hotel 5 - 7 pm

Feb 1 Sir Sam's Inn & Spa 8 - 10 pm

Feb 14 Sirch Bistro 11- 2 pm
Sandy Lane Resort 7 - 10 pm

Feb 28 Lions Spaghetti Dinner, Minden 5 - 7 pm

Mar 1 Sir Sam's Inn & Spa 8 -10 pm

To book Gord Kidd & friends email us at 5050guitarhero@gmail.com

SERVICES

SKILLED HANDYMAN - Available for renovations, trim, tile, bathroom, deck, basement, flooring and paint. Please call or text Bob at 705-457-6190

HANDYMAN - Carpentry, general repairs. Call or text Doug at 416-889-8534

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – GUILFORD FIREWOOD – Nicely cut and split, ready to burn. $130 per face cord – pick up. Delivery available, call 705-754-3034

FOR SALE – Rainbows for Stocking. 8" fish available April 1st, contact halihhoa@gmail.com. Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association, 6712 Gelert Rd, Haliburton

FOR SALE – Pure, unpasteurized honey. Clover, Golden, Liquid & creamed. Pure honey helps with allergies. Call Tom for details at 705-286-3628 / 2801 Blair Hampton Road

THEHIGHLANDER.CA

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

William "Bill" Francis

William (Bill) Thomas Francis, passed away suddenly on Thursday January 30th, 2025 in his 70th year.

Much-loved Dad to Liz (Kevin), Allan (Claire) and Will (Holly), cherished Poppa Bill/Grandpa Bill to John & Katie, Lainey & Monroe, and Esmae & Beau. Beloved brother of Evelyn (Dan Fox), Lawrence (Cathy), Ken, Ruth (Dwight Angiers), Arlene (Mike Ryan), Bev, and close cousins Bob Ryan and Diane Farias. Predeceased by his parents James and Leslie (nee Barkwell), and sister Margaret. Uncle Billy will be missed by many nieces and nephews. Fondly remembered by Kathryn and the Batty family, as well as his many friends at Home Hardware.

Bill was very athletic and especially loved hockey, baseball and broomball, as well as hunting and fishing. An avid horse-puller and then judge and long-time member of the Central Canadian Horse Pulling Association, he was known for fairness and integrity.

His enjoyment of Charolais cattle led to many road trips around the province to stop in and look. His willingness to lend a hand and strong work ethic was known to many and appreciated by all.

Bill loved nothing more than spending time with his grandkids and the antics they were up to and will be a sorely missed presence for them.

Visitation & Celebration of Life

Friends and family are invited to call at the **COBOCONK COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 6644 Hwy.!#35 Coboconk, Ontario (705) 454-3913 on Wednesday afternoon, February 5, 2025 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. A Private Graveside Service will be held at Pine Grove Cemetery, Norland. Friends, neighbours and relatives are invited to join the family at the **ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH #519** Coboconk on Thursday afternoon, February 6, 2025, from 1-3 p.m. for a Celebration of Bill's life. As an expression of sympathy, donations can be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, or Sick Kids Foundation and would be appreciated by the family.

Community Funeral Home
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

In Loving Memory of

Joan Beverley Johnston

March 6, 1932 - January 31, 2025

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of our beloved Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother, Joan Johnston, who was taken from us on January 31, 2025.

She brought immeasurable joy and light into our lives in her 92 years. The depth of love and happiness she shared will forever remain in our hearts.

Joan was married to James (Jim) Johnston (d.2000) for a wonderful 47 years and retired to their cottage in Haliburton in 1986. Joan and Jim had four children: Jamie (Gord) Woodman, Garth (Laura) Johnston, Gregory (d. 2012) (Elizabeth) Johnston and Glen Johnston (d. 2011). Five grandchildren: Kyle (Leigh) Woodman, Megan Woodman, Darren (Jestene) Johnston, Julie (Glen) Mager and Richard Johnston. Seven great grandchildren: Natalie, Blake, AJ, Mack, Tylee, Skye and Rory. Dear longtime friend of Dorothy Ball, also loved by many nieces, nephews and all whose lives she touched.

The family would like to thank the staff of Highland Wood for their kindness and care.

In accordance with her wishes cremation has taken place and a private family gathering will be held at a later date.

Donations to the Highland Wood Residents Council or Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation appreciated and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

Monk
www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Mary Pearsell (nee Formica)

(Resident of Haliburton)

It is with hearts full of fond memories and immense gratitude that we say goodbye to our Mom, Gram, & Nonna. After a day surrounded by family, during peaceful sleep, in the presence of caring nursing home staff, she left us on January 27, 2025, at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care in her 95th year. She was born in a Haliburton (Guilford Township) lumber camp on March 1, 1930. Beloved wife of the late Gordon Pearsell (m. 1950). Loving Mom of Deeno (Charlene) and Marina Maughan (Miles). Cherished Gram of Abbey Saunders (Charlie), Lesley Broadworth (Daryl), and Reuben Maughan. Proud Nonna of Connor Broadworth. Predeceased by her husband Gordon Pearsell (2015) and by her Italian immigrant parents Eugenio (1968) and Vittoria (Biagi) Formica (1999). Lovingly remembered by her sisters Gladys (Howard Roberts, predeceased) and Deena (Joseph MacCauley, predeceased). Fondly remembered by nephews, nieces, family, and friends. Mary was an original parishioner of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, where she was a dedicated, long-term volunteer. Mary was educated at Shaw's Business College, Toronto; one of the first women in her family to become a working professional.

Rosary, Visitation & Mass of Christian Burial

Friends & relatives are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Thursday afternoon, January 30, 2025 for Rosary at 2 p.m., followed by visitation from 3 – 5 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at **ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH** 27 Victoria Street Haliburton, Ontario on Friday morning, January 31, 2025 at 12 o'clock (Noon). Spring Interment St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, donations to St. Anthony Cemetery Fund or SIRCH Community Services would be appreciated by the family.

Community Funeral Home
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

In Loving Memory of

Larry Keith Hughes

A lifelong resident of Minden, Larry passed away peacefully at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at the age of 71.

Beloved husband of Jeanne Parcell-Hughes. Dear father of Andrea Cavicchi (Sean), Ryan Hughes (Stacey), Craig Hughes (Jasmine). Grandfather of Claire Cavicchi, Tyler, Brynnley and Jax Hughes. Son of Eileen (nee Warburton) and the late Keith Hughes. Brother of Lonnie Hughes (Jackie), Shannon Buy (Conrad), Sharron Robinson (Bob – deceased), Lockie Hughes (deceased). Fondly remembered by his many nieces, nephews family and friends.

Larry was happiest when he was riding motorcycles and working in his excavation business. He loved going for coffee with family and friends and spending time in the woods, fishing, snowmobiling and ATVing.

A Celebration of life will be held in the summer, at his cabin, as per his wishes.

Monk
www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS $29

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SOLUTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 6

1 P	2 C	3 B	4 S	■	5 H	6 M	7 S	■	8 R	9 I	10 B	11 L	12 E	13 T
14 R	A	R	E	15 M	E	A	T	■	16 E	N	R	O	S	E
17 O	R	A	T	O	R	I	O	■	18 A	P	I	E	C	E
19 B	L	U	E	C	O	L	L	20 A	R	J	O	B	■	■
21 E	O	N	■	■	■	■	22 S	L	I	M	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	23 S	24 T	25 A	T	E	D	■	■	26 G	27 A	28 P	29 S
30 S	31 C	32 R	E	E	N	O	N	E	33 S	34 C	A	L	L	S
35 H	A	A	G	E	N	■	■	■	36 I	O	N	I	A	N
37 O	F	H	U	M	B	38 L	39 E	40 O	R	I	G	I	N	S
41 E	S	S	E	■	■	42 U	N	P	E	N	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	43 G	44 O	T	M	E	■	■	■	45 E	46 S	47 A
■	■	48 D	49 E	A	T	H	A	N	50 D	51 T	52 A	X	E	S
53 A	54 M	I	D	S	T	■	55 S	T	A	R	R	I	E	R
56 R	E	C	I	P	E	■	57 S	O	Y	L	A	T	T	E
58 E	X	E	T	E	R	■	59 E	E	S	■	60 B	S	O	D

SOLUTIONS FOR JANUARY 30

1 R	2 E	3 D	4 W	5 I	6 N	7 G	■	8 S	9 I	10 A	■	11 U	12 S	13 E
14 E	L	E	A	N	O	R	■	15 T	N	T	■	16 S	W	E
17 S	L	A	C	K	T	I	18 V	I	S	M	■	19 H	A	G
20 O	I	R	■	21 S	I	M	I	L	E	■	22 P	E	N	■
23 D	O	M	24 I	■	■	25 M	E	T	A	26 V	E	R	S	27 E
28 S	T	E	N	29 T	30 S	■	■	■	31 M	O	L	S	O	N
■	■	■	32 F	I	A	33 S	34 C	35 O	■	36 R	V	I	N	G
■	37 Q	38 U	I	E	T	Q	U	I	39 T	T	I	N	G	■
40 S	U	N	N	I	■	41 R	E	L	I	E	S	■	■	■
42 E	E	L	I	N	43 G	■	■	■	44 E	X	E	45 T	46 E	47 R
48 Z	E	I	T	G	E	49 I	50 S	51 T	■	■	52 S	A	N	E
■	53 R	S	I	■	54 T	R	O	I	55 K	56 A	■	57 G	S	N
58 W	E	T	■	59 Z	O	O	M	F	A	T	60 I	G	U	E
61 A	Y	E	■	62 S	U	N	■	63 F	A	T	B	E	R	G
64 R	E	D	■	65 A	T	S	■	66 S	T	A	N	D	E	E

9	8	6	7	4	5	3	1	2
1	3	2	8	6	9	4	5	7
7	5	4	2	1	3	8	6	9
6	2	8	4	9	7	5	3	1
5	9	1	3	2	6	7	8	4
3	4	7	1	5	8	9	2	6
8	1	3	9	7	2	6	4	5
4	7	5	6	8	1	2	9	3
2	6	9	5	3	4	1	7	8

HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires a
Truck Driver/Equipment Operator

Truck Driver/Equipment Operators are responsible for the safe operation of heavy equipment such as a trucks, backhoes, loaders, and wing plows. This position is responsible for maintaining roads, ditching, excavating culverts, and brushing.

Successful applicants will possess an DZ/AZ licence and have experience operating heavy equipment. This position requires an ability to work on-call hours and respond to short notice call ins, as well as good judgment and communication skills. The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is $29.17. This position includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and employer paid extended health benefits.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than February 14, 2025, at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

Township of Algonquin Highlands
Parks, Recreation and Trails Department

We are currently accepting resumes for the following seasonal positions:

Dorset Tower Attendant
Seasonal Trails Office Attendant
Seasonal Student Trail Technician
Stewardship Youth Ranger Team Lead
Stewardship Youth Ranger
Lead Swim Instructor
Assistant Swim Instructor

For the complete details, please visit our website at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Please submit your resume and cover letter by **3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 14, 2025** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay,
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

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Hudson Henderson Insurance Brokers is a forward-thinking insurance firm committed to providing unparalleled service and innovative solutions to our clients. We are looking for a motivated and detail-oriented individual to join our team.

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- Assist licensed insurance brokers in preparing quotes and policy proposals for clients.
- Perform administrative tasks such as data entry, filing, and maintaining client records.
- Provide exceptional customer service by addressing client inquiries and processing policy changes.
- Collaborate with the sales team to identify new business opportunities and follow up on leads.
- Support the processing of insurance applications and claims.
- Stay up-to-date with industry trends and changes in insurance regulations.

Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent; additional education or certifications in insurance or a related field is a plus.
- Strong organizational and multitasking skills.
- Excellent communication and customer service skills.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Outlook).
- Attention to detail and the ability to work independently.
- Prior experience in the insurance industry or a related field is preferred but not required.

Benefits:

- Competitive salary • Benefit options
- Paid time off and holidays.
- Opportunities for professional development and career advancement.

How to Apply:

Please submit your resume and a cover letter outlining your qualifications and interest in the position to info@hudsonhenderson.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

FOR RENT

FOR RENT – Large 1 bedroom apt, heat, hydro, bell internet included. $1,600 per month. Parking available. Available immediately. Call 705-854-1737

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WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

PROPERTY OWNERS - want to make some money? We are buying your birch, fir and pine. We pay, up to 50 cents per foot (Birch), up to 50 cents per lb (fir & pine). You process. Call John at 905-926-5538.

NOTICES

AL ANON - WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: **Thursdays** 7 pm, St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and **Mondays** 7 pm at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org. All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every **Thursday** from 7:30-8:30 pm in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

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Fatal Error

by Barbara Olson
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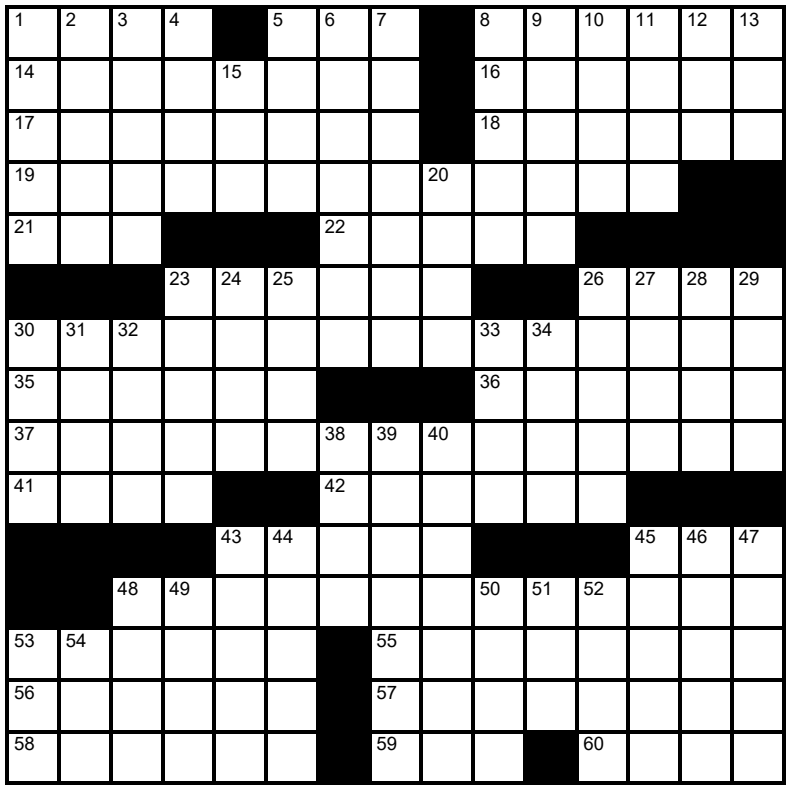
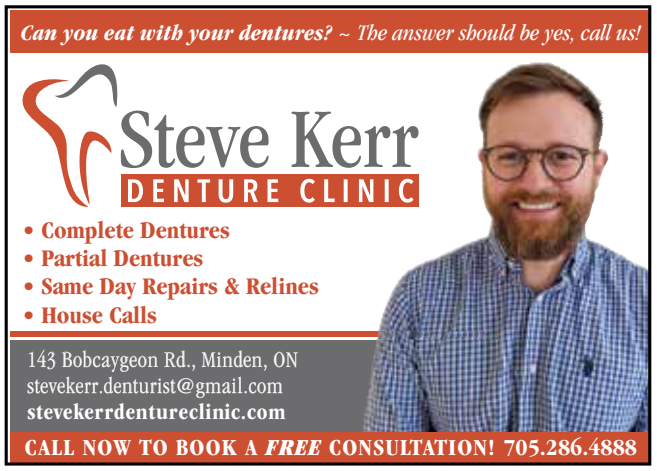


Across

1 Banned toxins: Abbr.
5 Letters on a ship's bow
8 Breast-of-lamb cut
14 Carnivore's red-centred serving
16 Piaf's "La Vie ___"
17 Handel's "Messiah," for one
18 Each
19 Manual, not professional work
21 Microsoft TV app
22 Diets successfully
23 Declared
26 Suddenly forgets, with "out"
30 Filter out unwanted phone messages
35 ___-Dazs (made-up ice cream name)
36 Sea between Sicily and Greece
37 Having modest roots
41 To be, to Titus
42 Sets loose, as pigs
43 "Dunno"
45 Tikkanen of the NHL
48 Life's two inevitabilities, it is said
53 In the thick of
55 Better for viewing the galaxy
56 The Colonel has a secret one
57 Lactose-free coffee order
58 Ontario town named for an area of England
59 Broad foot sizes
60 Abbreviation for a Windows system failure, formed by the first words in 19-, 30-, 37- and 48 Across

Down

1 Dig deep, as for answers
2 Monte ___
3 Rival of Gillette and Oster
4 Touristy port in southern France
5 Good guy in the story
6 Tries reaching via post
7 German fruit bread
8 Acquire fresh ammo
9 Dressed to go out for the night?
10 Vivacity
11 "Lullaby Girl" girl Lisa
12 It's left of F1
13 Driving casualty, often?
15 Soft slip-on, briefly
20 Political helper
23 Switch topics smoothly
24 Go over the top
25 Actress Davis of "The Brady Bunch"
26 Turf war mobs
27 Others, after "et"
28 Prepare in advance
29 U.S. workers' IDs
30 It's about a foot?
31 Half-___ (coffee orders)
32 Mock sounds of cheering
33 What to call a king
34 Parking meter insert
38 Prot. division
39 As a great throng
40 Sandal style that shows nails
43 Quebec's ___ Peninsula
44 Swimmer whose den is a "couch"
45 Takes to the wings in a play
46 Handle
47 No less sunburned
48 A driver's may be fuzzy
49 Make a dele?
50 The "7" of 24/7
51 MTV top-ten show, until 2008
52 Man of Oman
53 Is for all?
54 Tex-___ food



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